

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00730 171140Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
SAJ-01 DHA-02 /085 W
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9820
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL GOTEBOG UNN
USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0730

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, SW

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CZECH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TO SWEDEN:
THE PUBLIC VIEW

REF: STOCKHOLM 0568

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1. THE VISIT OF CZECH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DUSAN
SPACIL TO STOCKHOLM FEBRUARY 13-16 WAS SOMETHING LESS
THAN A PUBLIC RELATIONS SUCCESS, AS THE BELEAGUERED
SPACIL SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME IN PUBLIC (AND PRIVATE)
MEETINGS ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN GOC ACTIONS IN THE CHARTER 77
AFFAIR. SWEDISH MEDIA CARRIED DAILY STORIES ON SPACIL,

INCLUDING EXCERPTS FROM INTERVIEWS WITH BOTH SPACIL AND GOS OFFICIALS, WHICH MAINTAINED FOCUS ON CHARTER 77, THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS, AND SWEDISH CRITICISM OF THE CZECH GOVERNMENT.

2. THE DAY FOLLOWING SPACIL'S ARRIVAL, A GROUP OF PROMINENT SWEDISH JOURNALISTS AND CULTURAL FIGURES, INCLUDING THE EDITORS OF ALL FOUR MAJOR STOCKHOLM NEWSPAPERS, ISSUED THEIR OWN DECLARATION SUPPORTING THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN EASTERN EUROPE IN GENERAL AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN PARTICULAR. DEMANDING AN END TO "THE PERSECUTION" OF THE CHARTER 77 SIGNATORIES, THE DECLARATION ALSO NOTES THAT THE "OPPRESSION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS" IS OF GENERAL CONCERN. AT THE SAME TIME, A CALL WAS ISSUED FOR A LARGE PROTEST DEMONSTRATION TO BE HELD IN STOCKHOLM ON FEBRUARY 19.

3. IN STATEMENTS TO THE SWEDISH PRESS, SPACIL MAINTAINED THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT WAS TO LISTEN, AND TO CORRECT MISUNDERSTANDINGS "EVEN THOUGH WE FEEL CHARTER 77 IS AN INTERNAL MATTER." SPACIL ADDED THAT "WE CAN FIND SOLUTIONS FOR OURSELVES, AND DO NOT NEED ADVICE." HE ALSO STATED THAT NO ONE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR HIS POLITICAL VIEWS, BUT RATHER BECAUSE THEY HAVE VIOLATED CZECH LAW, AND THAT THE DISSIDENTS ARE COUNTER REVOLUTIONARIES WHO ARE INFLUENCED FROM ABROAD. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM AN INVESTIA CORRESPONDENT ON INVOLVEMENT OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, SPACIL DISCREETLY SAID THAT "FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE CENTERS" ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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"VERY INTERESTED IN DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITY IN OUR COUNTRY."

4. WHEN A SWEDISH JOURNALIST ASKED HOW IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A WEAK AND VULNERABLE GOVERNMENT SUCH AS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WHICH DOESN'T DARE FACE OPEN DEBATE, TO SURVIVE, SPACIL INSISTED THAT CHARTER 77 HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN MEETINGS THROUGHOUT HIS COUNTRY, AND THAT "SUITABLE PORTIONS" HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN RUDE PRAVO. "SPONTANEOUS CAMPAIGNS" HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE CZECH PEOPLE OBJECT TO CHARTER 77, HE CLAIMED. SPACIL TESTILY ADVISED THE JOURNALIST NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THE SOCIALIST ORDER IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WHICH IS NOT UPSET BY ATTACKS FROM ABROAD.

5. ON THE SWEDISH SIDE, FOREIGN MINISTER SODER, AFTER MEETING WITH SPACIL FOR 30 MINUTES, NOTED THE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW WHICH EXIST. SHE TOLD REPORTERS THAT "THE CZECH GOVERNMENT, SHOULD, AFTER THIS VISIT, SEE CLEARLY HOW WE REGARD THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS AND WHAT IT SAYS THERE ABOUT

HUMAN RIGHTS." SODER SAID IT IS "REGRETTABLE THAT OUR IDEAS WILL NOT REACH THE PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA," BUT ADDED, "I ASSUME THEY WILL REACH THEM EVENTUALLY." SODER ALSO NOTED THAT SHE HAD DISCUSSED OFFICIAL VISITS WITH SPACIL, AND THAT SWEDEN IS THE ONLY WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRY WHICH HAS NOT EXCHANGED MINISTERIAL VISITS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA SINCE 1968. THE PRESS ADDED THAT SPACIL DID NOT PRESENT AN INVITATION THIS TIME EITHER.

6. MFA UNDER SECRETARY ASTROM, WHO CONDUCTED MOST OF THE ACTUAL DISCUSSION WITH SPACIL, DESCRIBEED THE MEETINGS AS "FORMAL," THOUGH SPACIL HAD EARLIER TERMED THE VISIT "VERY USEFUL" AND "FRANK."

7. TALKS BETWEEN SPACIL AND GOS OFFICIALS WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER IN SEPTTEL.

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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